

Date: February 9, 2006

To: All physicians licensed in Nebraska

From: Joann Schaefer, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Director, Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure

**Nebraska Parkinson's Disease Registry:
Mandatory Reporting Reactivated for Physicians**

As of February 1, 2006, all physicians and pharmacies that are licensed in Nebraska will once again be required to report to the Nebraska Parkinson's Disease Registry. The Registry had been terminated in October of 2004 due to lack of funding.

The Parkinson's Disease Registry was created by an act of the Nebraska Legislature in 1996 that made Parkinson's Disease a reportable disease, and authorized physicians and pharmacists to release patient-specific information to the Registry. Since this is a State mandated registry, it is exempt from HIPAA disclosure issues; patient consent is not needed for you to report the information requested. Please see our website at www.hhss.ne.gov/ced/parkinson/law.htm for the statute and the rules and regulations.

Physicians are required to report Parkinson's patients within sixty days of diagnosis. Please report any cases that may have been missed while the Registry was inactive. This will ensure a complete and accurate database. Forms for reporting to the Nebraska Parkinson's Disease Registry can be accessed at our website www.hhss.ne.gov/ced/parkinson/forms.htm. Please be sure to submit the form for physicians. We are currently working on an internet-based reporting form and will notify you when it is available.

Parkinson's disease data may be sent to:

Jill Krause
Data Management Section
HHS Regulation and Licensure
PO Box 95007
Lincoln, NE 68509-5007
E-mail: parkinsons.hhss.ne.gov

For further information, contact Kurt Weiss, Administrator, Data Management Section, at (402)471-0147 or by e-mail at parkinsons@hhss.ne.gov.